Mideast Crisis Rallies Aid for Dodd

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

The world may long argue whether the Israeli-Arab war is good for Israel, or good for the Arabs, or good for mankind. But there can be no argument that it's good for Sen. Tom Dodd.

Dodd moved early to win Jewish support, including his fellow Democratic colleague from Connecticut, Sen. Abe Ribicoff, by urging American military intervention on the side of Israel. And since then he has profited from the fact that the Near East war has focused attention almost completely away from the major Senate debate of the year—over his recommended censure.

The postponement of that debate from May 22 to June 13, it is now revealed, was demanded by Dodd not to prepare his defense, as stated, but rather to organize a dramatic public relations campaign to pressure the Senate to vote his exoneration.

It's now learned that during the three-weeks grace reluctantly given him by Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), Dodd has been so busy working on his public relations that he even requested an appearance on the TV show of acid-tongued Joe Pyne and was willing to fly all the way to Hollywood to appear on it.

During and prior to this period also there has been a steady, studied drumbeat of newspaper articles by right-wing columnists in defense of Dodd. Some were written before the three-week postponement of the Dodd censure debate. They have been circulated during this period of grace by the "National Committee for Justice for Dodd" in order to swing votes in the Senate.

Bill White's Daughter

The outpouring of columns defending the Senator from Connecticut includes six by William Buckley, conservative former candidate for mayor of New York; five by John Chamberlain, three by Holmes Alexander; one each by James Kilpatrick, Russell Kirk and William S. White.

The impassioned column by White is interesting. What White did not say in his Dodd column was that the Senator had put White's daughter, Lucia, on the Senate payroll in 1964 for a lucrative summer job; and the following summer had given a job to one of Lucia's friends, Hammersly Wright, a fellow student at Stanford. Mrs. White phoned Mrs. Dodd personally to ask that Wright be put on the public payroll.

Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), who has become Sen. Dodd's most dedicated defender, has placed many of these columns in the Congressional Record.

The National Committee for Justice for Dodd, which has been circulating these columns, has an interesting background. Its expenses are reported to be paid in part by Lewis Rosenstiel, chairman of Schenley's, one of the biggest whisky distillers in the world.

More than a dozen phone calls to Rosenstiel in order to secure his comment, went unreturned. But it is known that Sen. Dodd has served as Rosenstiel's attorney in the past, and James Lynch, the detective whom Dodd used to shadow his former Senate employes, has worked for Rosenstiel and is reported to have been obtained through him.

Katanga and Dodd

Rosenstiel is not a member of the National Committee for Justice for Dodd which he is reported to be supporting financially, nor is any other man of great wealth except Henry Salvatori, the California right-wing leader who organized "Friends of Ronald Reagan" and was one of Reagan's chief financial backers. Salvatori is also a sponsor of the American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters which battled against President Kennedy's policies in the Congo in 1961-62.

Significantly, a book by former Assistant Secretary of State Roger Hilsman, "To Move a Nation," is being published this week, telling how Sen. Dodd opposed the Congo policies of John F. Kennedy, also how the giant Belgian mining firm, Union Miniere du Haut Katanga, hired a public relations expert, Michael Struelens, to write speeches, organize committees and work against Kennedy and the United Nations in the Congo.

Hilsman tells how Sen. Dodd, when Struelens's passport visa expired and the State Department was about to deport him, protested to the State Department.

It's interesting to note that the committee which Struelens organized to oppose Kennedy in the Congo has now been resurrected in part to oppose the Senate Ethics Committee on the censure of Sen. Dodd.

A good many of the National Committee for Justice for Dodd were once members of the American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters. Apparently all Dodd had to do was reach into his files for his old Katanga friends and get them to rally to his support in the Senate censure fight.

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